

MINUTES OF THE ZONE MEETING

held at the Northam Recreation Centre, 44 Peel Terrace, Northam
Friday 23 August 2019 commencing at 10:01 am

1 OPENING & WELCOME

The Zone President and Chair of the meeting, Cr Jan Court, welcomed delegates and observers and introduced Cr Chris Antonio, President, Shire of Northam. Cr Antonio welcomed delegates to Northam and commented on –

- Population of the Shire is approximately 12,500 with around 7,000 in Northam.
- Shire has four localities with agriculture in the East and more suburban in the West.
- \$300m of future developments in the Shire. A mixture of private, federal government, state government and local government investment.
- Shire projects include –
 - Northam Aquatic Centre.
 - Northam Youth Precinct – This has proven to be more successful than thought.
 - Bilya Koort Boodja Centre for Nyoongar Culture and Environmental Knowledge.
 - Ready.Set.Go - New collaborative brand identity for use by businesses, sporting, and community groups.
- Events in Northam include motor sports, Avon Descent, occasional State and National ballooning championships, community sporting events.
- State Government projects include –
 - Northam Police Station upgrade.
 - Main Roads WA Wheatbelt Regional Centre redevelopment.
 - Northam Hospital redevelopment – includes new renal dialysis unit and expanded chemotherapy facilities.
- Private projects include –
 - Northam Eco Lifestyle Village (H&H Development Enterprises).
 - Truck & Travel Centre (Procon Developments)
 - Dome Café development.
 - Bottle Shop development.
 - New shopping centre (includes Coles, Aldi, Best & Less).
 - Boulevard Shopping Centre redevelopment.
 - Lume Restaurant.
- Anniversary of the local government in the district in 2021.
- Northam currently in the Pearce electorate but this could change as future redistributions take into account the population increase in the North-east of the metropolitan area.

Cr J Court commented that H&H Developments were working with the Shire of Gingin to establish a similar lifestyle village in Gingin. She asked if any of the health practitioners based at the Northam Hospital go out into the regions. Cr Antonio replied that he would follow with the health practitioners.

Cr J Court welcomed Mr Matthew Gilfellon, CEO Shire of Chittering, to his first Avon-Midland Zone meeting and acknowledged Hon Lawrie Graham MLC, Member for Agricultural Region.

2 ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

2.1 Attendance

Delegates -

Mr Matthew Gilfellon	Shire of Chittering
Cr Jan Court	Shire of Gingin (Zone President)
Cr Barry Haywood	Shire of Goomalling
Cr Ken Seymour	Shire of Moora
Cr Chris Antonio	Shire of Northam
Cr Brian Rayner	Shire of Toodyay
Cr David Lovelock	Shire of Victoria Plains
Cr Denese Smythe	Shire of York (Zone Deputy President)

2.2 Observers

Mr Aaron Cook	Shire of Gingin
Mr Stan Scott	Shire of Toodyay
Mr Paul Martin	Shire of York
Hon Laurie Graham MLC	Member for Agricultural Region
Ms Jennifer Collins	Regional Manager Wheatbelt, Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries
Ms Courtney Allen	Senior Legislation and Strategy Officer, Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries
Mr Craig Manton	Regional Manager, Main Roads Wheatbelt
Mr Chris Evans	Research, Evaluation & Project Support, RDA Wheatbelt
Mr Ian Duncan	Executive Manager Infrastructure, WALGA
Mr Chris Hossen	Senior Planner People and Place, WALGA
Ms Chloe Reinikka	WALGA
Mr Cliff Simpson	Road Safety Advisor Wheatbelt North
Robert Dew	Zone Executive Officer

2.3 Apologies

Cr Steve Carter	Shire of Dalwallinu
Ms Jean Knight	Shire of Dalwallinu
Cr Darren Slyns	Shire of Dandaragan
Cr Leslee Holmes	Shire of Dandaragan
Mr Peter Bentley	Shire of Goomalling
Cr Pauline Bantock	Shire of Victoria Plains
Ms Glenda Teede	Shire of Victoria Plains
Hon Martin Aldridge MLC	Member for Agricultural Region
Hon Colin de Grussa MLC	Member for Agricultural Region
Ms Mandy Walker	Director Regional Development, RDA Wheatbelt

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

5 MINUTES

5.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Zone Meeting held 28 June 2019 at Gingin. Copies of these Minutes have been circulated to all member Councils.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held on 28 June 2019, as printed and circulated, be confirmed.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Smythe moved and Cr K Seymour seconded –

That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held on 28 June 2019, as printed and circulated, be confirmed.

CARRIED

5.2 Business Arising from the Minutes

(a) Off Road Vehicles and Local Government (Item 5.2(b))

Last meeting noted that arrangements had been made for Mr Gordon MacMile, Director Strategic Coordination and Delivery, Planning and Service Delivery, Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, to attend the November meeting to speak on off-road vehicles.

Recommendation

For Noting

NOTED

Cr J Court commented that she had nominated for a position on the Off-Road Advisory Committee.

The Executive Officer advised that arrangements were in hand for representatives from the Auditor General's Office to attend the next meeting of the Zone to give an update on local government auditing so far and a look at some of their recent local government audits.

(b) Other

No other matters were brought forward.

6 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

6.1 WALGA State Council Agenda

Review of the Agenda for the State Council meeting to be held Friday 6 September 2019. The Agenda has been circulated by WA Local Government Association to member Councils for distribution to delegates. The Zone is able to provide comment or submit alternate recommendations to State Council for consideration.

Matters for Decision

5.1 Interim Submission - Draft Position Statement: Fibre Ready Telecommunications Infrastructure (Page 5)

WALGA Recommendation

That the interim submission to the WA Planning Commission on the draft Position Statement: Fibre Ready Telecommunications Infrastructure, be endorsed.

In Brief

- On 23 May 2019, the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) released the draft position statement for Fibre Ready Telecommunications Infrastructure, for public comment.
- The position statement aims to provide guidance on greenfield and infill subdivision and development applications of land for residential, commercial and industrial purposes.
- The public comment period closed on the 22 July 2019, therefore an interim submission was prepared.

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

5.2 Interim Submission on the WA Motorsport Strategy (Page 11)

WALGA Recommendation

That the interim submission on the WA Motorsport Strategy be endorsed.

In Brief

- On 18 May 2019 the State Government released the WA Motorsport Strategy for consultation.
- The WA Motorsport Strategy provides a strategic framework to guide the motorsport industry to safely and sustainably develop the sport to benefit the industry and the wider community.
- While motorsport venues are not governed by Local Governments, they are a key stakeholder due to the numerous motorsport venues located on Local Government owned land.

- The Strategy focuses on six current and future bitumen based motorsport venues in Albany, Collie, Kalgoorlie, Keysbrook, Perth (Kwinana), and Wanneroo (Barbagallo).
- WALGA received comments from City of Albany, City of Busselton, Shire of Esperance, Shire of Plantagenet and City of Wanneroo to develop the submission.
- The main recommendation is for the State Government to review non-bitumen based motorsport to ensure representation of all motorsport disciplines and provide appropriate assistance to relevant Local Governments.

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

The meeting noted –

- **that there was no reference to motorsport in this region and urged follow up to ensure that this region was not forgotten in the Strategy;**
- **that there was no reference to Targa West, an annual tarmac rally where competitors compete on closed road special stages in and around Perth including in the Shires of Chittering and Toodyay; and**
- **that there did not appear to be any pathway for the future development or expansion of motorsport events.**

5.3 Interim Submission on the State Strategy to Respond to the Abuse of Older People (Elder Abuse)
(Page 16)

WALGA Recommendation

That the interim submission on the State Strategy to Respond to the Abuse of Older People (Elder Abuse) is endorsed.

In Brief

- The State Government released the Strategy to Respond to the Abuse of Older People (Elder Abuse) on 15 June 2019 for consultation.
- The Strategy provides overarching direction for collaborative action towards greater awareness and understanding of the causes, signs and consequences of elder abuse.
- WALGA requested feedback from all Local Governments to develop this submission.
- The Submission acknowledges that some Local Governments provide direct age care services, while other Local Governments who do not provide direct services work closely with aged services providers, groups and stakeholders to foster healthy, resilient, thriving communities and may also provide facilities for lease and community transport.
- All Local Governments are well placed to increase awareness of positive ageing and to implement age friendly strategies, with many Local Governments having already developed age friendly plans to address this.
- The Strategy is welcomed by Local Governments with a few areas requiring further clarification to ensure that Local Governments can address elder abuse suitably.

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

5.4 WA Public Libraries Strategy Forum (Page 26)

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA:

1. *Supports the proposed repurposing of the accounting treatment of existing capital funds to recurrent funding.*
2. *Supports the proposed transfer of ownership of stock from State to Local Governments for Tier 1 Local Governments.*
3. *Requests State Library WA to advise the Local Government sector of the State Government corporate budget schedule and expedite annual funding allocation notifications to Local Government as soon as possible in the new financial year.*

In Brief

- The first Western Australian Public Libraries Strategy Consultation Report was endorsed by WALGA State Council in July 2018.
- WALGA State Council endorsed the new Public Library Tiered Service Model at their May 2019 meeting.
- WALGA delivered a forum on 21 June 2019, to consult with the Local Government sector to design and implement a way forward with the Strategy.
- The draft consultation findings are presented to WALGA State Council for final endorsement.

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

5.5 Submission on the Draft Compliance and Enforcement Policy (Page 42)

WALGA Recommendation

That the submission to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation relating to the draft Compliance and Enforcement Policy be endorsed.

In Brief

- The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) has released a revised draft Compliance and Enforcement Policy.
- The revised Policy differs minimally from the existing DWER Enforcement and Prosecution Policy (July 2013) and reaffirms DWER's risk based approach in the delivery of its compliance and enforcement functions in a number of operational areas.
- The submission reflects WALGA's significant concerns about whether the draft Policy can be effectively implemented and recommends a review of the effectiveness of the existing approach be undertaken to inform a revised policy.

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

5.6 Submission on the Environmental Protection Authority's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Guidance (Page 54)

WALGA Recommendation

That the WALGA submission on the Environmental Protection Authority's proposed Greenhouse Gas Emissions Guidance be endorsed.

In Brief

- On 10 June 2019 the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) released updated draft Guidelines regarding how it considers greenhouse gas emissions when assessing significant proposals in Western Australia for public comment, along with an explanatory background paper.
- The Guidelines are being updated to ensure they reflect contemporary climate science, emissions trends, existing policies and regulation and risks to the Western Australian environment.
- The release of the draft guidelines for consultation follows the withdrawal of updated guidance in March 2019 which was criticised by some parts of the resources sector.
- WALGA's submission supports the proposed guidelines as consistent with the WALGA Climate Change Policy Statement, endorsed by State Council in July 2018. In particular the WALGA Statement calls for the EPA to take a stronger regulatory role in assessing and recommending conditions to mitigate the greenhouse gas emissions associated with major projects, within its Environment Impact Assessment process.

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

5.7 Road Safety Strategy for WA Beyond 2020 (Page 64)

WALGA Recommendation

That the submission to the Road Safety Council, for consideration in developing the next road safety strategy for Western Australia, be endorsed.

In Brief

- *Towards Zero*, the current road safety strategy for Western Australia will expire in 2020.
- The Road Safety Council has initiated a consultation process to inform the development of a draft strategy which will be recommended to the Minister responsible for road safety for endorsement by the Government of Western Australia.
- A draft submission, with a Local Government perspective, has been prepared to highlight some of the challenges and opportunities and make recommendations for improving road safety beyond 2020.
- Endorsement by State Council of the submission is sought to provide a representative response from the Western Australian Local Government sector.

Mr C Simpson outlined the proposals in the next Road Safety Strategy and referred to upcoming forums being run by the Road Safety Council at Northam (28/8/2019) and Merredin (29/8/2019) and urged attendance.

Cr K Seymour commented that he had attended the recent road safety forum in Moora and that he was disappointed that the Road Safety Council representatives appeared to be only interested in promoting a reduction in speed limits and were not prepared to discuss alternative speed limits on highways where road standards would safely allow increased speeds.

RESOLUTION

Cr K Seymour moved and Cr C Antonio seconded –

That the Zone recommends that consideration be given to a 120 km/h speed limit on rural highways where these highways (a) have been reconstructed to an appropriate standard to safely allow for a 120 km/h speed limit and (b) include a one metre wide separation centre line with double audible markers.

CARRIED

5.8 Interim Submission - Revitalising Agricultural Region Freight Strategy (Page 79)

WALGA Recommendation

That the interim submission to the Department of Transport on the draft Revitalising Agricultural Region Freight Strategy be endorsed.

In Brief

- The draft Revitalising Agricultural Region Freight Strategy identifies and prioritises specific infrastructure upgrades, and suggests regulatory and policy measures that will help make freight transport in WA's agricultural regions (which covers 63 Local Government areas) more productive, efficient and safer. Roads under the control of Local Governments are an integral part of these supply chains.
- Local Governments were invited to comment on the draft during a six week consultation period ending 12 July 2019.
- Local Government representatives from the Agricultural Regions have indicated general support for the proposals set out in the Strategy and have identified opportunities to strengthen the approach.
- The draft Strategy does not provide any framework or direction to move from the list of potential investment opportunities identified to a funded program of work.
- The draft strategy proposes significant rail and intermodal investment to ensure that freight rail is increasingly efficient, assisting industries to remain internationally competitive and for it to be economically attractive for freight to be moved by rail. These measures are supported by Local Governments to the extent that they attract more freight from road to rail and improve industry competitiveness. Measures are required to be put in place to ensure that the benefits of any public investment are not privately captured by above or below rail operators.
- A detailed interim submission was prepared in consultation with the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group and other stakeholders. This was supported by the Infrastructure Policy Team and the Executive Committee.

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

5.9 Policy Templates: (1) Works in the Local Government Road Reserve; and (2) Events in the Local Government Road Reserve (Page 92)

WALGA Recommendation

That the following Policy Templates be endorsed:

1. *Works in the Local Government Road Reserve; and*
2. *Events in the Local Government Road Reserve*

In Brief

- Local Governments have a responsibility to govern works or events in the road reserve subject to relevant legislation and Local Laws.
- There have been instances of work being executed without the knowledge of the Local Government and failures of poor quality reinstatement.
- Local Governments have asked WALGA to develop policy templates for works and events in the road reserve to complement existing legislation including Local Laws and provide guidance to applicants.
- Two Policy Templates have been developed: (1) Works in the Local Government Road Reserve, and (2) Events in the Local Government Road Reserve.
- The Policy Templates are based on Regulations, Local Laws and existing relevant Local Government policies.
- The Policy Templates define the different categories of works and events and cover permitting, traffic management and reinstatement requirements.
- Consultation has included all Local Governments and the Utility Providers Services Committee.
- The Policy Templates provide a foundation for Local Governments to develop their own policies should they elect.
-

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

RECOMMENDATION

That the above recommendations and comments be endorsed.

RESOLUTION

Cr B Rayner moved and Cr D Lovelock seconded –

That the above recommendations and comments be endorsed.

CARRIED

Matters for Noting/information

6.1 Submission to the Select Committee into Local Government (Page 111)

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note:

1. *Establishment of the Select Committee into Local Government; and,*
2. *The Process for the development of WALGA's submission to the Committee.*

In Brief

- The Legislative Council has established a Select Committee into Local Government, with a broad terms of reference and a 12 month Inquiry window;
- WALGA has prepared a draft submission addressing the Committee's terms of reference and feedback on the draft is sought from the Local Government sector by 13 August 2019;
- Local Governments are also encouraged to provide a submission to the Select Committee by the closing date of 23 August 2019, noting that WALGA has requested for Local Governments to be granted an extension for the preparation of submissions.

The meeting noted that submissions have been extended to 13 September 2019.

RESOLUTION

Cr C Antonio moved and Cr K Seymour seconded –

That the Zone make a submission to the Select Committee into Local Government endorsing the submission by the WA Local Government Association and invite the Select Committee to meet with the Zone.

CARRIED

The meeting urged local governments to support the WA Local Government Association's position.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 11:13 am.

RESUMPTION: The meeting resumed at 11:29 am. All those present at the time of adjournment were present on resumption.

6.2 Cooperation and Shared Services (Page 113)

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council notes the Cooperation & Shared Services (June 2019) document.

In Brief

- Local Governments in Western Australia have a strong history of working collaboratively to maximise resources to deliver services and outcomes that are often more efficiently and effectively delivered together
- WALGA has conducted an audit of current collaboration and the delivery of shared services across the sector
- The audit has resulted in the production of *Cooperation and Shared Services* which documents a range of examples across many areas of Local Government operations, including information about the governance arrangements that support collaboration and the delivery of shared services
- WALGA will continue to update this resource and work to support the sector with advice, tools and templates that support these arrangements
- A copy of *Cooperation and Shared Services* has been provided to the Minister of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries to demonstrate the range and extent of collaborative effort across the sector

6.3 Draft Terms of Reference for an Inquiry into Local Government Fees and Charges (Page 115)

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note the Draft Terms of Reference for an Inquiry into Local Government Fees and Charges.

In Brief

- An Inquiry into Local Government Fees and Charges has been a longstanding item on WALGA's advocacy agenda, and has been a policy position for WALGA since 2012.
- The State Local Government Partnership Group were provided, for approval, a Draft Terms of Reference for an Inquiry into Local Government Fees and Charges.
- WALGA endorsed the Terms of Reference provided to the State Local Government Partnership Group, subject to there being more emphasis on the Inquiry looking into the need for regulation on statutory Local Government fees and charges, and the suitability of Local Governments independently setting fees and charges for all of the services they provide. The changes recommended by WALGA are now reflected in the Draft Terms of Reference provided to State Council.
- Once the review is initiated by the Economic Regulation Authority and more information becomes available on timeframes for public submissions, WALGA will look to engage the membership in order to provide a sector-wide submission.

6.4 Public Health Advocacy Plan (Page 119)

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note the WALGA Public Health Advocacy Plan.

In Brief

- The WA State Government is currently introducing a new *Public Health Act 2016* (the Public Health Act) for Western which will require Local Governments to develop Local Public Health Plans.
- The Public Health Act is progressing through a five-stage process of implementation and is currently at Stage 4.
- WALGA as the peak body for Local Governments has been advocating to State Government for the appropriate resourcing for Local Governments to develop public health plans as essential to plan, implement and report against the new *Public Health Act 2016*.
- Alongside the advocacy plan, WALGA is engaged with Local Governments, including representatives of the Metropolitan Environmental Health Managers Group (MEHMG) to prepare submissions to develop the new regulations. All regulations from the previous *Health Act 1911* will be replaced, and repealed at the commencement of State 5, which is anticipated to commence in 2021.

6.5 Completion of the Managing Alcohol in Our Communities Guide (Page 121)

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note the completion of the Managing Alcohol in Our Communities Guide.

In Brief

- In August 2010 WALGA State Council resolved to maintain its partnership with the Drug and Alcohol Office WA (DOA) in relation to the 'Local Government Alcohol Management Package – A Toolkit to assist Western Australian Local Government' and other alcohol related matters.
- WALGA received a total of \$50,000 from the then DOA to complete the project.
- In December 2018 WALGA State Council endorsed the completed Guide. (Resolution 142.7/2018).

6.6 Local Government Coastal Hazard Planning – Issues Paper (Page 123)

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note the Association's preparation of the Local Government Coastal Hazard Planning – Issues Paper (2019).

In Brief

- The purpose of the Local Government Coastal Hazard Planning Issues Paper (the Issues Paper) is to clearly identify: (1) issues that Local Governments are experiencing in meeting coastal hazard planning responsibilities established by *State Planning Policy 2.6: Coastal Planning Policy*; and (2) options for resolving these issues, which may include research, state agency advice, legal advice, peer reviewed guidance, and/or advocacy.
- The Issues Paper uses nine scenarios to present a range of situations which coastal communities, and their Local Governments, are experiencing now or may experience in the near future given current climate change and associated sea level rise projections.
- In October, WALGA and the Local Government Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Planning (LG CHRMAP) Forum will meet to begin preparing a plan of action for addressing these issues, through issue prioritisation, identifying resource requirements and discussing opportunities for collaborative funding of further research and advice.

6.7 Climate Resilient Councils – Preparing for the Impacts of Climate Change (Page 125)

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note the commencement of the Climate Resilient Councils project, following WALGA's successful bid for Commonwealth Natural Disaster Resilience Program funding.

In Brief

- WALGA was advised on 26 June 2019 that its application for \$175,000 from the Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) for a project, Climate Resilient Councils - preparing for impacts of climate change, was successful.
- Project partners are the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC), Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) and LGIS who are all providing financial and in-kind support.
- The aim of the project is to assist WA Local Governments to prepare for the increased incidence and severity of natural disasters as a result of climate change. The project will:
 1. Through a desktop governance assessment, provide an evidence base of the extent to which climate change and disaster management are embedded in the decision-making and governance documents of all Western Australian Local Governments. This includes identifying gaps, barriers and opportunities to incorporating climate change adaptation into WA Local Government decision-making.
 2. Build upon these findings to inform State Government and WALGA initiatives to support the capacity of Local Governments to adopt better climate change adaptation and disaster mitigation and preparedness practices:
 - a. Run Local Government workshops to distribute individualised findings, gap analysis and 'what next'; and
 - b. Produce targeted guidance materials for members.
- The project is being promoted to Local Governments through WALGA's newsletters, social media and via direct contact with Local Governments to raise awareness and seek their active engagement with the project.

6.5 Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) (Page 128)

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note the resolutions of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council at its 26 June 2019 meeting.

In Brief

- This item summaries the outcomes of the MWAC meeting held on 26 June 2019.

RECOMMENDATION

That the above matters for noting/information be noted.

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr B Rayner seconded –
That the above matters for noting/information be noted.**

CARRIED

Organisational Reports

- 7.1 Key Activity Reports
 - 7.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Environment and Waste Unit (Page 131)
 - 7.1.2 Report on Key Activities, Governance and Organisational Services (Page 135)
 - 7.1.3 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure (Page 138)
 - 7.1.4 Report on Key Activities, People and Place (Page 141)
- 7.2 Policy Forum Reports
 - 7.2.1 Mayors/Presidents Policy Forum (Page 147)
 - 7.2.2 Mining Community Policy Forum (Page 147)
 - 7.2.3 Container Deposit Legislation Policy Forum (Page 148)
 - 7.2.4 Economic Development Policy Forum (Page 148)

RECOMMENDATION

That the above organisational reports be noted.

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Lovelock moved and Cr C Antonio seconded –
That the above organisational reports be noted.**

CARRIED

Hon L Graham referred to the Container Deposit Scheme and recommended that collection of eligible containers should commence as soon as possible to be ready for the commencement of the Scheme on 2 June 2020.

6.2 WALGA President's Report

Presentation of the WALGA President's Report (attached to Agenda).

RECOMMENDATION

That the WALGA President's Report be received.

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr D Lovelock seconded –
That the WALGA President's Report be received.**

CARRIED

6.3 State Councillor's Report

Report by Cr Jan Court.

RECOMMENDATION

That the State Councillor's report be received.

Cr J Court commented that she had been unable to attend the last meeting of State council due to illness. She commented on –

- National Redress Scheme.
- Strategy on homelessness.
- State Council and Zone Restructure and Process Working Group. She sat on this Working Group. The metropolitan area seems to want change. Rural areas adamant that country Zones work well. The role of State Councillors discussed. The Working Group will report to State Council and then outcomes to Zones for comment.
- Ministers Forum at Local Government Convention. Noted that the ALGA President had commented that this does not happen in other States.
- Recommended that each local government prepare a list of 10 positive points to counter the negativity being expressed about local government.

RESOLUTION

**Cr B Haywood moved and Cr B Rayner seconded –
That the State Councillor's Report be received.**

CARRIED

6.4 Zone Status Report

Report by WA Local Government Association on status of Zone resolutions for action by the Association – August 2019 (attached to Agenda).

RECOMMENDATION

That the August 2019 Status Report be received.

RESOLUTION

**Cr C Antonio moved and Cr D Smythe seconded –
That the August 2019 Status Report be received.**

CARRIED

7 ZONE REPORTS

7.1 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group

The Local Government Agricultural Freight Group met on 4 July 2019. The Zone's delegates may care to report.

The Group's Chair, Cr Seymour, Cr Stephen Strange (Great Eastern Country Zone) and Mr Ian Duncan (WALGA) met with Mr Des Snook, Main Roads WA, to discuss concerns with the new requirements for movement of agricultural machinery. Cr Seymour may care to comment.

The next meeting of the Group is scheduled for 11 October 2019.

Recommendation

That the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group Report be received.

Cr K Seymour commented on –

- Presentation to the Group by Ms Nicole Lockwood from Westport.
- Requirements for the movement of agricultural machinery and outcomes of meeting with Mr Des Snook, Main Roads WA –
 - Width increased from 3.5 m to 3.8 m to accommodate machinery such as self-propelled sprayers.
 - Allowable number of vehicles in convoy's increased from 2 to 3.
 - Agricultural Pilot Zones:
 - Red – Metropolitan area.
 - Orange – Regional Distributor and State roads outside the metropolitan area.
 - Green – All other roads.
 - In Green Zone only 1 agricultural pilot required for widths over 3.8 m and up to 8.5 m.
 - In Orange Zone if travel is less than 1 km between green zones only 1 agricultural pilot required for widths over 3.8 m and up to 8.5 m.
 - No pilot required for any size agricultural machine moving from one farm gate to another within 1 km on the same local government road, however traffic management is required.
 - Where a licensed pilot is specified an agricultural pilot maybe substituted, provided there is a holder of a heavy vehicle pilot licence in the lead oversize agricultural vehicle, overseeing the pilots.

Cr B Haywood pointed out that agricultural tractors do not have a GCM recorded on their vehicle registration which means that in some circumstances a truck must be used to tow agricultural machinery on road. He believed this to be an anomaly in the regulations.

Mr C Manton commented that Main Roads WA is responsible for issue of permits, Department of Transport is responsible for vehicle licensing and there can be a mismatch between licencing information and what Heavy Vehicle Services require.

RESOLUTION

Cr B Haywood moved and Cr D Smythe seconded –

That the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group Report be received.

CARRIED

8 AGENCY REPORTS

8.1 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

Presentation and report from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Report be received.

The meeting noted that the Department's report had been circulated to delegates after the Agenda had been sent out.

Ms C Allen commented on –

- New Department's website. Requested feedback on the site.
- Local Government Legislation Amendment Act 2019 has passed Parliament and has received Royal Assent. Some reforms introduced in the Act are now in operation such as compulsory candidate and elected member training.

Cr B Haywood recommended that the Department look at organising groups to undertake elected member training. Mr I Duncan commented that the cheapest option to undertake the training is likely to be on-site with groups of elected members.

Mr P Martin commented that the WA Electoral Commission advertising for this year's local government elections do not mention the compulsory training requirements. It appears to be up to local governments to highlight this requirement.

Mr S Scott pointed out that there were no links in the Department's report to follow up the Regional Arts and Cultural Investment Program. Ms Allen indicated that she would follow up.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Smythe moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –

That the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Report be received.
CARRIED

8.2 RDA Wheatbelt

Presentation of report from RDA Wheatbelt (attached to Agenda).

Recommendation

That the RDA Wheatbelt Report be received.

Mr C Evans recommended that local governments request letters of support from RDA Wheatbelt for projects they are submitting for funding.

RESOLUTION

Cr C Antonio moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –

That the RDA Wheatbelt Report be received.
CARRIED

Main Roads Wheatbelt

Presentation of report from Main Roads Wheatbelt.

Recommendation

That the Main Roads Wheatbelt Report be received.

Mr C Manton commented on –

- A map of works in development by Main Roads has been sent to all local government CEOs in the Wheatbelt.
- A survey of local governments in the Wheatbelt will shortly be undertaken. The last survey was three years ago.
- In the next two months he hopes to visit every local government in the Wheatbelt region.
- He is the portfolio representative for the Wheatbelt region and in this role reports to the Director General of the Department of Transport. He can be used as a reference point, however he has no operational accountability. Issues that he has been involved with include –
 - Practical driver license tests.
 - Level crossing signs. These still need to be maintained as they are legislated.
 - Agricultural pilots.
 - Requirements for towing of caravans and boats.
 - Training requirements by the Department of Transport for licensing staff –
 - Query as to why staff returning from maternity leave need to redo the full training course. Looking at a reduced requirement.
 - Adjusting training for staff in rural areas to be more relevant to rural needs.
 - Lack of local engagement by the Public Transport Authority around school bus services.

RESOLUTION

**Cr B Rayner moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –
That the Main Roads Wheatbelt Report be received.**

CARRIED

8.3 RoadWise (Wheatbelt North)

Presentation of report from RoadWise (Wheatbelt North).

Mr Cliff Simpson commented on –

- Every four hours someone is killed or seriously injured on WA roads.
- Safe system speed thresholds. The impact speed above which the risk of death or serious injury escalates –
 - Pedestrian – 30 km/h
 - Head on with tree – 50 km/h
 - Side impact – 50 km/h
 - Head on – 70 km/h
- The zero concept is an aspirational goal to achieve no fatalities or serious injuries on WA roads. The implementation of the system will not eliminate crashes, as 70% killed or seriously injured (KSI) crashes are as a result of mistakes, as opposed to 30% attributed to law breaking or risk taking behaviour
- Cost to society of crashes - If there were 47 KSI crashes on the Great Eastern Highway, in the Shire of Northam, composed of 13 fatalities and 34 hospitalisations, the cost to society is \$109,166,000.
- Northam Road Safety Committee is actively advocating for the urgent upgrade of the Great Eastern Highway, particularly the Coates Gully section. Estimated cost of improvements to this section are \$17m.
- A Car Yoga event to be held in York.
- Promotion of ANCAP 5 star safety rated cars for new drivers. Need to be aware that the ratings change as cars get older.

RESOLUTION

**Cr K Seymour moved and Cr D Lovelock seconded –
That the RoadWise (Wheatbelt North) Report be received.**

CARRIED

Cr J Court and Cr D Smythe declared their interest in Item 9.3 as they had chaired meetings of the Zone during 2018/2019.

9 FINANCE

9.1 Financial Reports

Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Report for the year ending 30 June 2019 are attached.

RECOMMENDATION

That the financial reports for the year ending 30 June 2019, as attached, be received.

RESOLUTION

**Cr C Antonio moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –
That the financial reports for the year ending 30 June 2019, as attached, be received.**

CARRIED

9.2 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts are submitted for payment -

<u>Payee</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Amount</u>
R W & S Dew	Secretarial Services to Zone – September 2019 Quarter	3,569.25
	TOTAL (no GST)	<u><u>\$3,569.25</u></u>

RECOMMENDATION

That the accounts as listed totalling \$3,569.25 be approved for payment.

RESOLUTION

Cr C Antonio moved and Cr D Lovelock seconded –

That the accounts as listed totalling \$3,569.25 be approved for payment.

CARRIED

Cr J Court vacated the chair. The Executive Officer conducted this portion of the meeting.

9.3 Zone Honorariums

BACKGROUND

The Zone pays an honorarium to the Chair of Zone meetings on a pro rata basis in accordance with the number of meetings chaired. For 2018/2019 the amount was set at \$650.

COMMENT

For 2018/2019 there were 5 Zone meetings. Approval is sought to pay the honorarium to the respective Chairs of the Zone's 2018/2019 meetings. 4 meetings were chaired by Cr Court and 1 meeting was chaired by Cr Smythe.

RECOMMENDATION

That payment of the 2018/2019 honorarium to the Chairs of Zone meetings be approved.

RECOMMENDATION

That the honorarium to be paid to the Chair of Zone meetings for 2019/2020 be set at \$650.

Cr J Court and Cr D Smythe did not participate in or vote on this matter.

RESOLUTION

Cr C Antonio moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –

That payment of the 2018/2019 honorarium to the Chairs of Zone meetings be approved.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION

Cr C Antonio moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –

That the honorarium to be paid to the Chair of Zone meetings for 2019/2020 be set at \$650.

CARRIED

Cr J Court resumed the Chair.

9.4 Executive Officer Services - Fees

BACKGROUND

The 2009 Annual General Meeting resolved that the annual and hourly rates for Executive Officer services to the Zone be adjusted annually by the Consumer Price Index with any change effective from 1 July.

COMMENT

The Consumer Price Index for the 12 month period ending 31 March 2019 increased by 1.1%. The current rates for the Executive Officer services are –

- Ordinary Zone Business \$14,277 per annum (plus GST);
- Special Activities - \$59.41 per hour (plus GST)

In line with the increase in the Consumer Price Index the rates, effective from 1 July 2019 will be -

- Ordinary Zone Business \$14,434 per annum (plus GST);
- Special Activities - \$60.06 per hour (plus GST).

RECOMMENDATION

That the adjustment to the Executive Officer annual and hourly rates for services to the Zone, in line with the Consumer Price Index, be noted.

RESOLUTION

Cr C Antonio moved and Cr B Rayner seconded –

That the adjustment to the Executive Officer annual and hourly rates for services to the Zone, in line with the Consumer Price Index, be noted. CARRIED

9.5 Wheatbelt Conference 2018 – Financial Statement

BACKGROUND

The last Wheatbelt Conference was held in 2018. The Great Eastern Country Zone undertook the financial management for the Conference.

COMMENT

The final financial statement for the Conference has now been received and is attached to the Agenda. The surplus in the Conference Account is \$14,140.

RECOMMENDATION

That the financial statement for the Wheatbelt Conference 2018 be received.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Smythe moved and Cr C Antonio seconded –

That the financial statement for the Wheatbelt Conference 2018 be received. CARRIED

Budget 2019/2020

Consideration of the Zone's budget and membership subscriptions for 2019/2020. Draft 2019/2020 budget is attached to the Agenda.

Notes on the draft budget –

Receipts

- It is proposed that the general subscription remain the same as last year - \$2,000.
- Local Government Agricultural Freight Group receipts include payments for 2018/2019 invoices received in 2019/2020.

Payments

- No allocation has been made for a contribution to the Wheatbelt Conference. The holding of a future Conference is yet to be determined. Previously the Zone has allocated a contribution of \$3,000 per year for the Conference
- In line with previous years an allocation has been made for attendance by the Executive Officer to the WA Local Government Convention.
- An allocation (\$6,000) has been made for two representatives of the Zone to attend the 2020 National General Assembly of Local Government.

- No allocation has been made for any special projects or specific advocacy.
- No change has been made to the allocation for honorariums.

RECOMMENDATION

- That the Zone Budget for 2019/2020, as attached, be adopted.
- That the membership subscription for 2019/2020 be \$2,000.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Smythe moved and Cr K Seymour seconded –

- **That the Zone Budget for 2019/2020, as attached, be adopted.**
- **That the membership subscription for 2019/2020 be \$2,000.**

CARRIED

10 ZONE BUSINESS

10.1 Wheatbelt Conference

BACKGROUND

The last Wheatbelt Conference was held in Jurien Bay in April 2018. The Conference is a collaborative arrangement between the Avon-Midland, Central and Great Eastern Country Zones with the Conference in the past being managed from both an administrative and financial point of view by the Executive Officer of the Great Eastern Country Zone.

The Conference is now held every two years with previous conferences being held in York, Merredin, Kellerberrin, and Narrogin.

The Zone's last meeting noted that the issue of the future of the Wheatbelt Conference had been considered by the Central Country Zone which had resolved:

That the Central Country Zone does not support the holding of a Wheatbelt Conference in 2020 however the Zone will review the decision in relation to future Wheatbelt Conferences in May 2020.

The Central Country Zone acknowledged that the previous conferences have been successful, however there was concern at the difficulty in developing new and interesting topics and finding suitable keynote speakers and also the issue of time and cost for attendees.

The Great Eastern Country Zone considered the issue at its June meeting and resolved:

That the Great Eastern Country Zone position on the Wheatbelt Conference be;

- 1. There is value in holding Wheatbelt Conferences;*
- 2. Not hold a Wheatbelt Conference in 2020 and look to hold a conference in 2021;*
- 3. Request the three (3) Wheatbelt Zone Executive Committees to meet and discuss the future of Wheatbelt conferences during the 2019 Local Government convention*

Last meeting deferred consideration of the issue of the future of the Wheatbelt Conference to this meeting.

COMMENT

The Executives of the three Zones meet and discussed the future of the Wheatbelt Conference at the 2019 Local Government Convention. The Avon-Midland Zone was represented by Cr Jan Court, Cr Denese Smythe and the Executive Officer.

The Central and Great Eastern Country Zones reiterated their positions. Representatives from the Great Eastern Country Zone were quite keen for the Conference to be held in 2021 with a revised format, the possible inclusion of elected member training and more input by the Zones into the content and speakers. The Central Country Zone representatives voiced the opinion that they did not see great value in continuation of the Conference but would look at any proposals for a Conference in 2021.

Cr Court and Cr Smythe may care to comment.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Avon-Midland Country Zone support the holding of the next Wheatbelt Conference in 2021 with a revised format to be determined in consultation with the Central and Great Eastern Country Zones.

RESOLUTION

Cr B Rayner moved and Cr K Seymour seconded –

That the Avon-Midland Country Zone support the holding of the next Wheatbelt Conference in 2021 with a revised format to be determined in consultation with the Central and Great Eastern Country Zones.

CARRIED

10.2 Service to Assist Local Governments to Develop their Public Health Plan

BACKGROUND

The Public Health Advocacy Institute WA (PHAIWA) has received funding to provide a service to support and mentor local governments to assist them in developing their Public Health Plans, in line with the implementation of phase 5 of the Public Health Act 2016 and the State Health Plan. PHAIWA has extensive experience working with local governments, has presented at a number of forums on this subject and has previously developed a step-by-step Public Health Planning Guide which can be found on their website - www.phaiwa.org.au.

COMMENT

PHAIWA's service is a free service which consists of a support and mentoring component which will primarily focus on (but not limited to) the engagement of Elected Members and Executive around why it's important to start this process now and the benefits a locally prepared plan will have for everyone. It will also involve providing stakeholder connections and general level advice, recognising that each local government is at a different stage with this process, some unsure how to commence it and others having an adopted plan in place.

The level of support will be flexible and more suited to those either yet to commence the process, those still in the early stages of preparing a plan or for those in between public health plans rather than for those local governments with a current draft plan and priorities agreed upon already. It will primarily consist of telephone and email support with the Officer tasked to develop the plan (usually, but not always, the Environmental Health Team), face to face meetings and potentially workshops where feasible.

Stage two of the project will offer a more in-depth and thorough support service for a select few local governments (or local government regions collectively applying for support) where PHAIWA will facilitate and assist them through one chosen aspect of the public health planning process in person. They will come to the local government or group of local governments to assist. Details on how each local government (or a group of local governments) can apply for this assistance and what it may include and involve will be announced shortly via these same channels and also directly to any local government who has already registered using the support and mentoring service.

Jo Malcolm from PHAIWA is available to discuss the public health planning process, why it needs to be done and the next steps to progress a current plan. An article on Public Health Planning was in the June/July Western Councillor.

RECOMMENDATION

That the service offered by the Public Health Advocacy Institute WA to provide support to assist in development of Public Health Plans be drawn to the attention of member local governments for their consideration and follow up.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Smythe moved and Cr K Seymour seconded –

That the service offered by the Public Health Advocacy Institute WA to provide support to assist in development of Public Health Plans be drawn to the attention of member local governments for their consideration and follow up.

CARRIED

11 URGENT BUSINESS (as permitted by the Presiding Member)

No matters were brought forward for consideration.

12 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Hon L Graham MLC commented on –

- The Local Government Legislation Amendment Act 2019 – Has passed Parliament.
- Fees and allowances controversial and likely to be some restructuring.
- Lifestyle village and security of tenure for residents. The proposed Bill to give security of tenure has been languishing for some 12 months.
- Voluntary assisted dying legislation - Members of Parliament have been given a conscience vote. He will vote in favour of the legislation.

Cr B Haywood and Cr D Lovelock left the meeting at 12:37 pm.

13 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Future meetings of the Zone are scheduled for –

22 November 2019	Shire of Dalwallinu
21 February 2020	Shire of Dandaragan
24 April 2020	Shire of Victoria Plains
19 June 2020	Shire of York
21 August 2020	Shire of Chittering
20 November 2020	Shire of Wongan-Ballidu

RECOMMENDATION

That the next ordinary meeting of the Zone be held Friday 22 November 2019 and be hosted by the Shire of Dalwallinu.

RESOLUTION

Cr B Rayner moved and Cr K Seymour seconded –

That the next ordinary meeting of the Zone be held Friday 22 November 2019 and be hosted by the Shire of Dalwallinu

CARRIED

Mr I Duncan advised that the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network will shortly be writing to all Wheatbelt local governments recommending support for the project.

14 GUEST SPEAKER

14.1 CBH Network Strategy Update

Mr Rob Dickie, Government & Industry Relations Advisor CBH Group, gave an update CBH's Network Strategy and commented on –

- 1.1mt of additional storage built.
- 8 major expansion projects scheduled for this year.
- 1 new greenfield site at Narngulu.
- Anticipate around the same amount of works for next year.
- Some existing sites have been placed into care and maintenance and others will be demolished. Will provide an update when these sites have been finalised. Closed sites will be offered to local governments.
- 25 sites will have inloading and outloading enhancements.

- 16 sites planned for replacement of weighbridges.
- 8 sites will have accommodation upgrades. Looking at collocating accommodation in towns and outside of harvest leasing out to others.

Mr C Manton pointed out that when expanding/upgrading sites it was important to look at road access (eg issues at Konnongorring receival site) and the capacity of the receival site to accommodate truck parking.

Cr C Antonio asked when applications for seasonal staff close. Mr Dickie replied that he would follow up.

Cr J Court thanked Mr Dickie for his presentation.

15 CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chairman thanked attendees, the Shire of Northam for hosting the meeting, wished those elected members restanding for election all the best, thanked those elected members not restanding for their contributions and declared the meeting closed at 12:52 pm.

CERTIFICATION

These Minutes were confirmed by the meeting held on

Signed:
(Chairman of meeting at which the Minutes were confirmed)